

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 24, 2001 LB 313

because none of the bills that we've dealt with have involved any expenditures of money to speak of. But this particular bill all of a sudden now is talking in millions of dollars. And when you start talking in millions of dollars, of course, you have to start thinking about, okay, we have so many millions of dollars to spend on A bills this year, what is this taking away from, what is this giving to, what will this preclude us from doing? I think, if I'm remembering correctly, Senator Wehrbein, the budget that preliminarily came out anticipated about \$15 million, at most, for A bills. Here we're talking about a bill of several million dollars. And I guess the first thing I would like to get clear is how many millions we are talking about? And Senator Coordsen, I didn't have an opportunity to put together these figures, especially since you're apparently dealing with the Hardship Fund also. But tell me, bottom line, how much money we're putting into this program in 2001-2002, and then in 2002-2003? The...in the year 2001-2002, you're transferring, apparently, the unused money in the Hardship Fund. So, that's \$3 million. Is that all of the money in the first year, or is there an additional \$2 million beyond that?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: It's my understanding that the expenditures would be \$3 million from the General Fund which is offset by a \$2.8 million transfer from the Hardship Fund, as I understand it, for the first year.

SENATOR BEUTLER: A \$2 million transfer from the Hardship Fund?

SENATOR COORDSEN: And then a fiscal note then for 2002 and 2003 indicates that the expenditures may be as much as \$6.8 million. But I'll punch my light on and I'll put some rationale to it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, well, I would certainly be interested in hearing what those figures are, especially in the second year where I understand you don't have any...there's no Hardship Funds left, and the fiscal note seems to indicate that we're talking about \$6.8 million, which comes to roughly half the money we'd have available for A bills. So, I would most certainly like to hear more about that. And I'm also concerned